

February 10, 2026

The Honorable Mark Amodei, Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
2006 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Henry Cuellar, Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Amodei and Ranking Member Cuellar:

As you draft Fiscal Year 2027 legislation for the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security, the American Society of Civil Engineers urges you to provide robust funding to the agencies and programs that play a vital role in protecting the nation's public health, welfare, and security. From securing our nation, to responding to disasters, or working to mitigate the impact of disasters before they occur, the Department of Homeland Security is critical to ensuring our national security and prosperity.

ASCE's *2025 Infrastructure Report Card* rated the overall condition of our nation's infrastructure a cumulative grade of "C," and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) was a significant step forward in raising the grades. However, the IIJA's authorizations are ending FY 2026. This means that an even greater commitment from appropriators is necessary to build smarter and stronger going forward, as well as utilize new approaches, materials, and technologies to ensure our infrastructure is resilient enough to recover quickly from significant weather events and other hazards.

#### **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is a vital partner in disaster response, mitigation and recovery. ASCE supports efforts to preserve, revitalize, and improve FEMA and its programs which support communities nationwide in preparing and responding to weather related and man-made disasters. **To that end, ASCE requests a funding level of at least \$32 billion for FY 2027. ASCE also urges the Subcommittee to provide \$350 million for the Flood Hazard Mapping and Risk Analysis (RiskMAP) program, as well as \$10.59 million for the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program (NEHRP).**

Natural and man-made disasters have repeatedly demonstrated the vulnerability of the nation's infrastructure. The federal funding for mitigation, preparedness, research, and standards has been insufficient to provide the resources necessary for mitigating natural and man-made hazards. Programs like the RiskMAP program allow communities to better conduct risk and vulnerability assessments, and receive critical data to enhance flood risk mitigation strategies. While NEHRP coordinates research, testing, engineering. It also supports development of building codes, informs mitigation practices, enhances emergency preparedness, and supports public awareness. Funding for these programs is critical to the health and safety of the nation, its citizens, and to the resilience of the nation's critical infrastructure.

## **Dams and Levees**

Our nation is home to more than 92,000 dams and more than 24,000 miles of levees, which are critical components of risk reduction and provide protection to communities, critical infrastructure, and trillions of dollars in property. However, the nation's levees and dams are in need of significant repair and upgrades. This includes an estimated cost of \$165 billion to repair the nation's non-federal dams, according to the Association of State Dam Safety Officials. As such, *ASCE's 2025 Infrastructure Report Card* gave our nation's dams and levees each a grade of "D+." **We urge the Subcommittee to support the following programs at their fully authorized levels:**

- **National Dam Safety Program (PL 118 – 2 Sec. 1132) at \$13.4 million;**
- **High Hazard Potential Dam Rehabilitation Grant Program (PL 114 – 322 Sec. 5006) at \$60 million; and the**
- **National Levee Safety Program (PL 117 – 263 Sec. 8387) at \$25 million**

The National Dam Safety Program (NDSP), first authorized in 1996, was recently reauthorized on a bipartisan basis in the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024. It is the primary source of federal support for state dam safety programs. The NDSP supports state programs with resources for training, staffing needs, emergency planning, and dam inspection and monitoring activity. However, the program is annually underfunded having generally only received just over \$10 million of its total authorization. Both its funding and authorization levels are not nearly enough to keep up with the increasingly rising cost of bringing the nation's dams into a state of good repair. It is critical that the National Dam Safety Program be fully funded to ensure states are able to properly monitor the condition and safety dams that fall under their jurisdiction.

The High Hazard Potential Dam Rehabilitation Grant Program is the primary source of federal funds for repair and rehabilitation of high hazard potential dams- those dams which, in the event of a dam failure, would result in the loss of life. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, more than 2,500 high hazard potential dams are assessed to be in either poor or unsatisfactory condition. However, this critical grant program does not always receive an appropriation, and it only received \$11.4 million of its \$60 million authorization in FY 2026.

The National Levee Safety Program has created an inventory of our nation's levees, which did not exist before Hurricane Katrina. In fact, we now know the location and condition of more than 24,000 miles of levees; however, there is much work to be done to further inventory the thousands of miles of levees not yet in the database. The National Levee Safety Program was reauthorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, however, since its inception, it has yet to receive any funding other than for the levee inventory.

Funding for these critical programs is critical to protecting the lives of communities that live behind levies, and downstream of high hazard potential dams nationwide. Investing in dam and levee safety could save billions in recovery funds in the event of a levee breach or a dam failure.

In conclusion, ASCE believes our nation must prioritize the investment needs of our water resources infrastructure systems to ensure public safety, a strong economy, and the protection of our environmental resources.

We thank you for your consideration of our funding requests and look forward to working with the Subcommittee to fund these existing successful federal infrastructure programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Sevier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Caroline Sevier  
Managing Director, Government Relations and Infrastructure Initiatives  
American Society of Civil Engineers

cc: Chairman Tom Cole and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, House Committee on Appropriations